(b) if so, what are the details regarding its expansion plans and the particulars of the added responsibilities to be entrusted to this organisation?

'THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposol to entrust the Central Bureau of Investigation with' new areas of responsibility, Th_e CBIs staff strength is augmented from time to time to make it functionally effective.

Restriction or opinion growing

' 1019. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions at present in growing opium in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and '(b) In accordance with the Law, the cultivation of opium poppy in India is permitted in such tracts as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time and such cultivation has to be only on account of Central Government. The cultivation of opium poppy is under strict licensing control as envisaged in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules, 1985.

The licences are issued each year as per the Licensing Principles laid down by the Government taking into consideration the export demand for opium for medical use and prevention of leakage from licit to illicit channel, through requirement of a minium qualifying yield.

Opium cultivation in the country

1020. PROF. C. LAKSHMANA: Witt the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government has recently suggested to the Government of India to put an end to the opium cultivation in the country for curbing drug menace;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the country in this regard; and

(c) the production of opium in the country during the last three years respectively and the areas where it is grown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE ' MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The opium poppy cultivation for production of opium in India is confined to the notified tracts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The production of opium in these States during] the last three years has been as under: